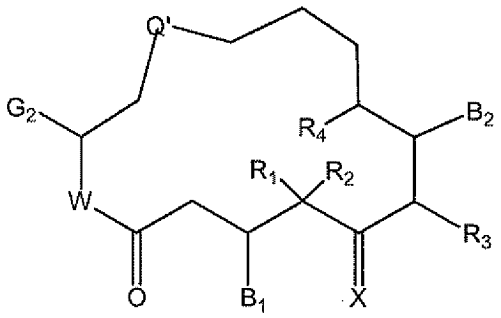
**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please replace the listing of claims with the below listing of all claims.

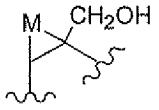
**Listing of Claims**

1(currently amended). A method for the preparation of at least one 26-hydroxyepothilone of formula:

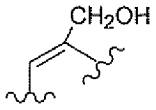



where:

Q' is selected from the group consisting of




and




;

$G_2$ is the following formula (VI)

$$CH_3\text{-}(A_1)_n\text{-}(Q_a)_m\text{-}(A_2)_o\text{-} \qquad \text{(VI)}$$

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are independently selected from the group of optionally-substituted ($C_1$-$C_3$)alkylene and ($C_2$-$C_3$)alkenylene;

$Q_a$ is an optionally-substituted ring system containing one to three rings and at least one carbon to carbon double bond in at least one ring;

n, m, and o are integers independently selected from the group consisting of zero and 1, where at least one of m or n or o is 1;

W is O or $NR_6$;

X is selected from the group consisting of O, and H, $OR_7$;

M is O, S, $NR_8$, or $CR_9R_{10}$;

$B_1$ and $B_2$ are selected from the group consisting of $-OR_{11}$ and $-OC(=O)R_{12}$;

$R_1$-$R_4$ and $R_{12}$-$R_{17}$ are selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, and heterocyclo, except $R_{15}$ is not hydrogen, and when $R_1$ and $R_2$ are alkyl, they can be joined to form a cycloalkyl;

$R_6$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

$R_7$ and $R_{11}$ are selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, trialkylsilyl, alkyldiarylsilyl, and dialkylarylsilyl;

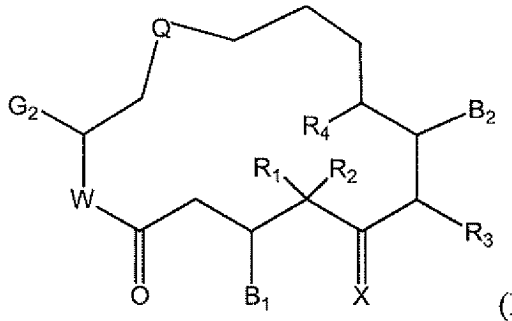
$R_8$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, $R_{13}C(=O)$-, $R_{14}OC(=O)$-, and $R_{15}S(O)_2$-; and

$R_9$ and $R_{10}$ are selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, heterocyclo, hydroxy, $R_{16}C(=O)$-, and $R_{17}OC(=O)$-;

the pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and any hydrates, solvates, or geometric, optical and stereoisomers thereof;

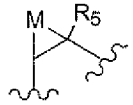
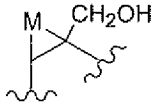
comprising the steps of:

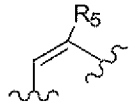
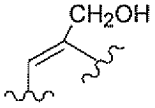
a) contacting at least one epothilone of formula IVa




(IVa)

where:

Q is  when Q' is  , and

Q is  when Q' is  ;

$R_5$ is $-CH_3$; and

W, X, $G_2$, M, $B_1$, $B_2$, $R_1$-$R_4$, and $R_6$-$R_{17}$ are defined above;

the pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and any hydrates, solvates, or geometric, optical and stereoisomers thereof;

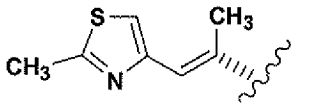
with a microorganism or enzyme derived therefrom capable of selectively catalyzing the hydroxylation of said $R_5$ group to $-CH_2OH$; and

b) effecting said hydroxylation.

2(original). The method of claim 1 wherein n is zero and m is 1.

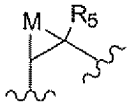
3(original). The method of claim 1 wherein n is zero, m is 1, and $A_2$ is alkenyl.

4(Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein $G_2$ is

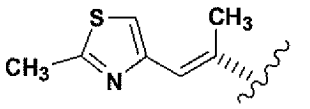



5(canceled).

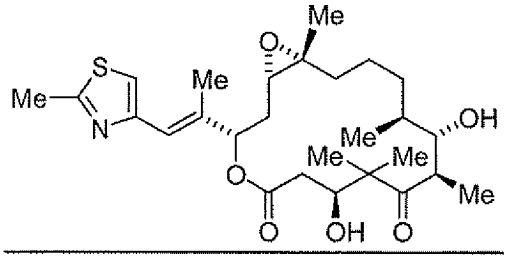
6(original). The method of claim 1 wherein Q is



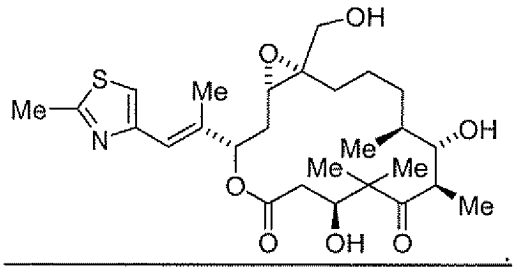

7(previously presented). The method of claim 6 wherein $G_2$ is




8(currently amended). The method of claim 7 wherein said epothilone of formula IVa is epothilone B having the formula:

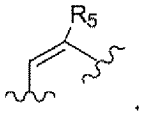


and said 26-hydroxyepothilone is 26-hydroxyepothilone B, having the formula.

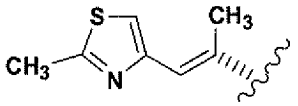


9(canceled).

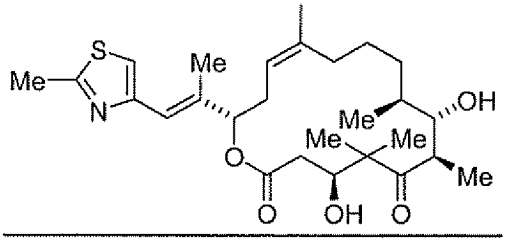
10(previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said Q is



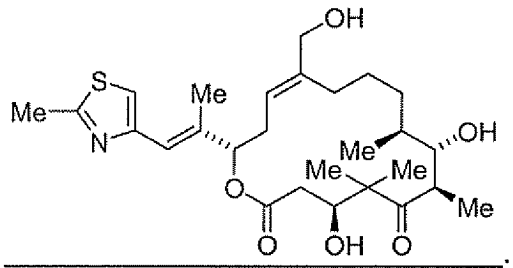
11(previously presented). The method of claim 10 wherein $G_2$ is



12(currently amended). The method of claim 11 wherein said epothilone of formula IVa is epothilone D having the formula:



and said 26-hydroxyepothilone is 26-hydroxyepothilone D, having the formula:




13-17(canceled).